



Flathead National Forest

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News Release

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Flathead Forest Friday Focus: Backcountry Safety

KALISPELL, MONT. – This year skiers will have more access to backcountry areas in the Canyon Creek area which presents some safety concerns we would like to chat about during our next Flathead Forest Friday breakfast chat. Please join our recreation and avalanche specialists at the Pin and Cue Restaurant in Whitefish, Montana at 7 AM on Friday, November 21, 2014 for a no-host breakfast and discussion on the safety challenges in the Canyon Creek area and the highly popular groomed Canyon Creek Snowmobile Trail.

This year skiers at Whitefish Mountain Resort will have direct access to the Canyon Creek area and may choose to ski out of the boundary of the managed ski area and into the backcountry. Two potential conflicts are of concern to Forest Service: skiing in avalanche prone areas and hiking out using the Canyon Creek Snowmobile trail. We want to talk with the public about our plans to communicate these dangers, backcountry user education on how to correctly hike on a groomed snowmobile trail and hear ideas on how we can keep people safe in the Canyon Creek area.

Every other month, the Forest Service will coordinate these no-host breakfast meetings at a local restaurant with the goal of sharing good food, great company, and a little information about what's happening on our National Forest. We hope the event will be a great way to discuss public land management opportunities and challenges that are important to us all.

If you plan to attend or have any questions, please notify Public Affairs Officer Wade Muehlhof at ewmuehlhof@fs.fed.us or (406) 758-5252. Your response allows us to plan accordingly with the restaurant.

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